

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. **13** July 1948

SUBJECT Continued Arrests of Former
Iron Guardists

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

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1. During May the arrest of former Iron Guardists continued. Among those taken into custody were Nicolae Patrascu, who had vigorously supported a policy of rapprochement with the Groza Government; Alexander Constant, former Minister of Propaganda under Antonescu; and Vica Niculescu, who served as liaison between the legionnaires and the Ministry of Interior.
2. Patrascu and Niculescu were charged by the authorities with breaking the agreement made with the Government in 1945. In particular Patrascu was accused of maintaining contact with Horia Sima and other Iron Guardists abroad. Constant, who is liable to prosecution as a war criminal, may be brought to trial on charges growing out of his membership in the cabinet of Antonescu.
3. Professor P.P. Panaitescu, former Rector of the University of Bucharest who played a prominent role in negotiations between legionnaires and the Government in 1945, ascribes the arrest of Patrascu and his followers to their failure to observe this agreement. He likewise believes that the increasing Jewish influence in the Government resulting from the addition of new Communist ministers has played some part. Panaitescu particularly resents Patrascu's contacts with legionnaires abroad, which he considers to be a violation of the agreement reached in 1945.

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

~~SECRET~~ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO

DDA Memo, 4

Auth: DDA REC 77

Date: 26 Apr 78

By: 032

...in accordance with the
of 31 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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